

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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SIXTEEN INDICTED IN CENTRALIA-BASED METHAMPHETAMINE RING

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 5, 2006, **AMY L. MEYER**, age 26, **JERRY DEWAYNE HITIBIDAL**, age 26, **RICHARD DEAN WROLEN**, age 47, **RYAN L. GARRISON**, age 28, **BRIAN D. SELF**, age 33, **AMANDA N. MARCUM**, age 19, **JAMES L. GOFF**, age 24, **RHONDA M. MOSS**, age 36, **SCOTT A. SANDERS**, age 35, **EVERETT W. WILKEY**, age 36, **MARY L. HOWARD**, age 38, **KEITH E. HOWARD**, age 34, all of Centralia, Illinois, **MISTY D. GRADY**, age 31, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, **HENRY E. ROWCLIFF**, age 33, of Sandoval, Illinois, and **BLAKE R. GORDON**, age 24, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one (1) count indictment charging them with Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute and to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. The indictment alleges that the conspiracy took place from November of 2002 through the date of indictment in several counties throughout Southern Illinois, including Jefferson, Marion and Clinton Counties, and elsewhere throughout the United States.

Each of the individuals charged faces from 10 years to life in federal prison, and a \$4,000,000 fine upon conviction.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The individuals named above have been taken into custody. One other individual who was named in the indictment has not yet been arrested and will not be identified in this release.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Department of Clinton County Sheriff Michael J. Kreke, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Illinois State Police, pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative and the focus by federal and state authorities on eradicating methamphetamine manufacture and trafficking. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's

Office, and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities. The United States Marshal Service and the Centralia Police Department assisted the investigating agencies in making the arrests.

“Methamphetamine production and distribution cannot be tolerated,” stated Acting United States Attorney Randy G. Massey, “the utilization of federal charges is intended to send the message that those who manufacture or distribute methamphetamine in our communities will face substantial penalties for that conduct.”

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney, Mark R. Niemeyer.